

Geography (GCSE)

What will I learn about?

"The subject that holds the key to our future." - Michael Palin

There has never been a better or more important time to study Geography. With growing interest in issues such as climate change, migration, environmental degradation and social cohesion, geography is one of the most relevant courses you could choose to study. The course will equip our engineers of the future with the knowledge and skills to help find the solutions for some of the biggest challenges facing our planet today.

How is the course structured?

Students will sit two examination papers at the end of Year 11. These are outlined below:

Unit 1 – Living with the physical environment.

The themes for this paper are:

- Natural Hazards, Ecosystems including Rainforests & Extreme Environments, and Coasts & Rivers.

Unit 2 – Challenges in the human environment.

The themes for this paper are:

- Urban Issues and Challenges, including a study of Manchester and Lagos, Changing Economic World, Resource management.

Unit 3 – Geographical applications

Fieldwork and an Issue Evaluation, containing a decision making exercise based on a pre-release resources booklet made available 12 weeks before the Unit 3 exam.

How will my work be assessed?

Internal Assessment

Students are testing regularly using short multiple choice quizzes to identify gaps in knowledge and next steps for learning. Students will be expected to repeat tests until knowledge is secure.

External Assessment

3 exams at the end of Year 11:

- Paper 1 – Living with the physical environment: One exam (worth 35% of the overall marks)
- Paper 2 – Challenges in the human environment: One exam (worth 35% of the overall marks)
- Paper 3 – Geographical skills: (worth 30% of overall marks) including a Fieldwork Enquiry series of questions, and an Issue Evaluation based series of questions using a pre-release resource book.

What can this qualification lead to?

Studying Geography allows students to develop a wide range of skills including research, critical evaluation, developing reasoned arguments, the collection and analysis of data, teamwork, problem solving, IT skills and communication skills. All of these provide an excellent intellectual base for study at A level, degree level and future employment in a variety of fields. Jobs directly related to Geography include;

Civil Engineer, Town Planner, Sustainability Consultant, Quantity Surveyor, Meteorologist, Tourism Officer, Park Ranger, Aid Worker, River and Flood Management Officer, Conservation Officer, GIS Officer.